

# THE NASHVILLE GLOBE.

"All things come to them that wait, providing they wait—like they wait"—Charles W. Anderson. "Get out of our sunshine"—R. E. Boyd.

VOL. III.

NASHVILLE, TENN., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1908.

No. 13.

## MEHARRY'S 32ND COMMENCEMENT

Exercises at Ryman Auditorium, March 31.

W. T. VERNON, REGISTER OF U. S. TREASURY, ADDRESSES

GRADUATES—ONE HUNDRED FIVE STUDENTS IN MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND PHARMACY RECEIVE DIPLOMAS—AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND WITNESS PROCEEDINGS—AUDIENCE A REPRESENTATIVE ONE AND THE FAULTLESSNESS OF THE PROGRAM CALLS FORTH UNSTINTED PRAISE.

On Tuesday evening, March 31, the city of Nashville witnessed the commencement exercises of the thirty-second anniversary of the graduating classes of Meharry Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical College of Walden University. These exercises were given at the Ryman Auditorium and a large audience, numbering approximately five thousand, was present. Nashville has long since enjoyed the reputation of getting together as intelligent an audience, among its Negro citizens, as can be found among any race in the United States, with equal opportunities, and Tuesday night was not an exception—to the contrary, it was the rule. There are just two great commencement days in which the whole people of Nashville turn out to see. One is the High School commencement exercises, the other is Meharry. Both are usually held in the spacious auditorium commonly known as "The Gospel Tabernacle." These departments of Walden attract as no other school in the race. They have students from nearly every country, and from many races, but all identified with the Negro, and on account of such, these exercises bring thousands of visitors each year, who come to see a son, daughter, brother, sister, relative or friend receive diplomas and start out into the professional world to battle with the medical, dental and pharmaceutical professions.

The class of 1908 has a decided distinction over the former classes in that it is the largest ever sent out from this institution, increasing by one hundred and five the long list of hundreds already pointing with pride to Meharry as their Alma Mater.

Some of the visitors in the city had finished from Meharry more than twenty years ago and were here for the first time since they received their diplomas and went out into the world to practice.

The program showed the result of careful training. Especially is this true in the pieces rendered both from students and the musical selections. At 7:30 Prof. Berry began the processional march, which brought down the center aisle from the right corner of the auditorium, circling the stage and climbing on it with dignified tread, one hundred and five graduates. After they were seated comfortably on the stage, a chorus of voices under the direction of Miss Mamie Braden, sang "For His is the Sea," from the 95th Psalm, Mendelssohn. Then the Rt. Rev. Isaac Lane, D. D., the senior bishop of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, of Jackson, Tenn., offered prayer. A chorus with solo, "There is a River," from the 46th Psalm, by Buck, was rendered by Gertrude Lewis and Glee Club.

The salutatory address, "The Aristocracy of Medicine," was delivered by O. W. Sherrill. He took up the history of the profession and by a description of the noted achievements of medical science, showed that the physician must at all times have before him a high ideal in the domain of preventatives. He said this had been one of the greatest victories of the science, and by a forcible argument showed completely that there was an aristocracy of medicine that was not waning; that it was increasing each year with all classes of professional men.

The pharmaceutical valedictorian spoke on "Pharmacy as a Business and Profession." This was ably rendered by O. L. Sharp. Mr. Sharp was

by no means slow in bringing out to his class in a forcible argument the business side of pharmacy, and the need of a careful study of this profession in a business way. This was followed by a solo, "A Toreador's Love Song" (Couchais) by E. W. Miller. Mr. Miller has long since made a reputation as a bass soloist. His piece was applauded highly and was compelled to return to an encore.

"The Providence of Dentistry" by John Seward, who was the dental valedictorian, carried with it a distinction peculiarly its own. This department of the school, as heretofore, was represented by a good subject that was ably treated.

The chorus of male voices, "Away! Away!" (Brackett), by the Glee Club, was next. Then the medical valedictorian, "Medical Education a Public Concern," by Hiram E. Archer. Mr. Archer took time and pains to forcibly deliver his address. He covered a scope that needs the most careful consideration by professional men. It is said that he was the best speaker among the graduates. He was lustily applauded. After his address came the chorus, "The Lord of Hosts is with us," from the 46th Psalm.

The principal speaker and the one who lent dignity and national prominence to the already universally known school, was Hon. W. T. Vernon, Register of the Treasury of the United States. Mr. Vernon proved, by far, to be the best orator that ever addressed a graduating class of this institution. He has a voice that is commanding, eloquent and well-trained. With ease he spoke and electrified the five thousand listeners, who took in every word, and applauded from time to time, interrupting the speaker as he would make some indelible impression upon his hearers. The address was lengthy, spicy and appropriate, and not one utterance was amiss.

He spoke in part as follows: "I always count it a privilege, an opportunity greatly welcomed, when permitted to say a word to those who stand at the threshold of a career.

"Men of the class of 1908, your mission is indeed lofty. To you will be afforded the opportunity of dealing with the structural side of the race, and broader than the race will be your influence, in that their destiny affects our common country and all humanity.

"Then let us to the task of dealing with our problems manfully and fearlessly as become the future leaders of a confiding, struggling race. Your lives must harmonize with the dominant sentiment of this progressive age.

"The tendency of our civilization is toward association on right principles, helpful co-operation, toleration and justice.

"Today at birth, every child has opportunities surpassing the dreams of all past ages. The accumulated knowledge of the world through centuries grown is yours.

"Civilization, an epitome of all human history, makes its onward sweep before us. Man utilizes nature's power and like a monarch commands the captured elements around him. The thunder, the lightnings, no more strike terror to his heart. They speak across seas, telling of some new advance he has made in science.

"I might pause here to add that I have absolutely no sympathy with those who believe that we are to reach our fullest development elsewhere than in America. More than three centuries ago we left behind us the environment of the land from which our fathers came and to which we would naturally return should emigration obtain.

"With torn hands and bleeding feet, with the weary load and heavy heart, we have gone forward on American soil to a degree truly inspiring to our friends.

"Remember that the achievements of the past are an earnest of the possibilities of the future, and that no man of impartial views can honestly predict other than our final success.

"Those elements of progress which have brought success despite untoward conditions are but the elements exhibited by the white race in America, which elements have given to them a civilization today, the wonder of the ages. So then I repeat to go forward in your efforts, in your labors for a trusting, confiding people, is but to give impetus to their development, eventuating into a final triumph, is but to contribute mightily to the progress of American civilization.

"Then, members of the graduating class of Meharry College, go heal the sick, the halt and the blind, so that it may be said of you as it was said of Hippocrates, the great father of medicine.

"His was the ambition which sought the aggrandizement of self in encompassing the happiness of others; his the wished for glory, whose throne was contemporary gratitude, and

(Continued on Page 8.)

## WHAT ABOUT THE OLD DEATH TRAP

Hundreds of Little Souls in Daily Peril.

CONDEMNED KNOWLES SCHOOL BUILDING A PUBLIC MENAGE.

AN OUTRAGE TO COMPEL CHILDREN TO JEOPARDIZE THEIR LIVES IN SUCH A MANNER—IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTACH FIRE ESCAPES TO THIS DILAPIDATED OLD HULK—TIMBER TOO ROTTEN TO HOLD BOLTS—CONDITION APPEALS TO EVERY PARENT TO DEMAND THAT THIS BUILDING BE REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE.

Last Monday night the Board of Education met in regular session, with a full membership present. It was a very busy session, and all of the members of the Board seemed to be alive to all matters before them.

Considerable discussion was given a proposition by a syndicate of dentists to lecture to the children in the public schools as to the care of their teeth.

The Superintendent's report was listened to very attentively. He submitted much for the consideration of the board, but that of placing fire escapes attracted the most attention. His report in part follows:

"Under your instructions I have in conjunction with the Building Inspector visited all of the two and three-story public school buildings in the city and have, as you directed, proceeded with the work of making such changes as the Building Inspector ordered. A detailed report of these changes and work, and the cost of them, will be submitted when the work has been completed.

"Fourteen thousand dollars is available for the enlargement of the Wharton School and I suggest that you take this matter up at once so that the work may be completed by the beginning of the fall term.

"There is a piano needed on the second floor of the Cockrill School and I suggest that you authorize the purchase of a square piano at not exceeding \$40. There is an old and out-of-repair square piano at the McCann School, which might be used in exchange if you authorize it.

"It is at this time that it is customary for you to elect a Census Enumerator."

The Executive Committee, headed by Maj. Stahlman, reported that insurance had been placed upon Ross and Murphy schools. Mr. DeWitt reported that the settlement of litigation upon certain school property had been left to the City Attorney, who had not yet made any report upon his findings in the matter. In connection with the first paragraph of Supt. Weber's report it was estimated that the sum of \$7,500 will be needed for the various improvements counting fire escapes. Following instructions given at the special meeting of the Board March 7, examination of fire escapes needed in the schools had been made. In conjunction with Building Inspector Hodge and the Chief of the Fire Department. It was recommended by Inspector Hodge, who was present that spiral fire escapes be erected in the High School, Warner, Howard and Tarbox schools at a cost of \$3,425. A motion by Dr. Lofton to the effect that the Superintendent and Building Inspector be authorized to close the contract for these escapes brought on a lengthy discussion. Mr. Lieberman was for "going slow." He said the Board should not jump into a \$3,425 proposition without much investigation. He declared that the schools in question had stood for thirty-five or forty years without having been visited by fire, and that as in all probability the escapes could not be put up for use the present season, the matter be deferred. Maj. Stahlman replied to this by saying that fire might visit the school at any time, that the escapes in question had been recommended by competent officials, and that the work should be contracted for at once. After general discussion the contracts were authorized. Messrs. Hill and Lieberman voted against the motion.

The matter touched upon in the second paragraph of the Superintendent's report was referred to the Executive Committee with power to act. Mr. Lieberman again interposing objections. The third paragraph was taken up and the Superintendent authorized to arrange for the improvement mentioned. On motion of Mr. Akers, a bill is to be started in the City Council providing for the appropriation needed for the erection of fire escapes.

Since the sad accident that happened in Cleveland, Ohio, a few weeks ago the schools in every hamlet throughout this broad land have been investigated as to the means of escape in case of fire. The officials of Nashville have not been asleep along this line, and Maj. Stahlman voiced the sentiment of every thinking citizen in this city when he stated that a fire is likely to happen at any time. There is one fact, however, that the whole Board seems to have overlooked, and that is this, a building that belongs to the city and is condemned by the city building inspector is liable to fall at any time. A few weeks ago one of our citizens, who is president of one of the largest banks in the South, was threatened with a lawsuit by the city officials because he had not torn down a building that had been condemned. This was a small brick building, and while it may have been in bad condition was not occupied daily, as is the old death-trap on Grant street, known as Knowles School. Several hundred children are housed in this building five days in every week, and if a fire should break out it would be almost miraculous if ten of these children escaped unhurt. And yet it stands—the lives of these children are put in jeopardy every day they stay in this building. But the board has not, as yet, seen fit to recommend that a new and modern building be erected to replace this one. A number of speculators could keep them until midnight in discussing a free (?) offer to instruct the children in dentistry, but the hundred of helpless children, who are housed in a building unfit to house fodder, five days every week could not receive any consideration whatever.

The Negroes are very much wrought up over this matter, and several have said that they would rather put their children in the pay schools than to have them daily in danger of being crushed to death like so many rats. They know they pay taxes for the support of schools, but that does not seem to have any weight with the powers that be. But they are still hoping that they will not be compelled to take their children out of the public school on account of the negligence on the part of the Board of Education. They believe that these men will eventually awaken to a sense of duty and recommend that a new school-house be built to replace old "Death-Trap" Knowles School.

## BLIND SCHOOL CONCERT.

Sunday a party of students from the Blind School, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Lowe, the Principal, and Mr. J. H. Crawley, went down to Hendersonville, Tenn., and gave a splendid sacred concert at the beautiful new stone church, of which Mr. Shinn, of Fisk University, is the pastor. Following is the program:

Jubilee Song—"Tell all the world, John."

Scripture Reading, May Sue Dickerson.

Quartette—"Over the stars there is rest."

Jubilee Song—"Were you there?"

Remarks—Mr. Myers.

Jubilee Song—"Swing low sweet chariot."

Select Reading—Blanche Davis.

Quartette—"Abide with me."

Remarks—Mrs. Lowe.

"Good Night"—By the little ones.

This was the conclusion of a series of concerts planned and given for the friends and patrons of the Institution, to awaken and create anew an interest in the work which Principal Lowe and her corps of teachers are so earnestly striving to carry on and build up for humanity and especially the Negro race. The school is supported by the State, and those whose sight is impaired to the extent that they cannot attend a "seeing" school are eligible to matriculation, provided they are between the ages of five and twenty-one. It is hoped that much good will follow these efforts and that more children will be sent to the institution next year.

## REMOVAL OF REMAINS.

The remains of Edward Ewing will be removed from the vault on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and placed in the family lot at Greenwood. Services will be in charge of the Knights of Pythias.

## THE FIGHTING TWENTY-FOURTH

From Philippine Islands to Buffalo, N. Y.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION TO UNCLE SAM'S BRAVES.

CITY IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE—SCHOOLS CLOSE FOR OCCASION—STREETS THROGGED BY MULTITUDES OF SPECTATORS—BUFFALONIANS FAIRLY WILD OVER THE EXCELLENT BAND CONNECTED WITH THE REGIMENT—EIGHT HUNDRED STALWART MEN WIN APPLAUSE FOR THEIR FINE MARCHING—REVIEW BY MAYOR.

Special to The Nashville Globe.

Buffalo, New York, March 24.—The "fighting Twenty-fourth" is now in Buffalo. To the strains of music from the best band in the United States army, with possibly the exception of the one stationed at West Point, eight hundred of Uncle Sam's bravest soldiers marched through the streets of Buffalo to-day, coming direct from the scene of a mighty conflict in the far East, the Philippine Island, where they have seen two hard years' service and where they put a stop to the disturbing elements of that Archipelago. They came by the way of the Pacific Ocean and entered the United States at San Francisco, the Golden Gate City, and were transferred across the continent in three sections of a special train. So this morning, for the first time since the mighty struggle between the North and South, the Civil War, the Negro soldiers paraded the streets of Buffalo. This was made possible by an urgent request sent up to the War Department from thousands of Buffalonians, who appealed to the department to allow these men, fighting terrors to the man, to spend a day in the city by the Falls of the Niagara. Finally the request was granted. The permission given and the climax was reached when the parade started from Exchange and Michigan streets at 11:10 this morning. The starting point was thronged with thousands of onlookers. A platoon of mounted police cleared the way under the direction of Inspector John Martin. Maj. Taggart and the regimental officers, mounted, followed. The regimental band headed the battalions, playing martial airs. Then came the lithe, stalwart Negro troops, whose names are still a word of dread among the Pulujanes of Leyte, Samar and Cebu. Never did so many gigantic men parade in Buffalo in any one military organization. Their appearance corroborated the statement of army officers that the Negro troops were more dreaded than any other soldiers of the United States in the Philippines as well as in Cuba or even in these United States by reason of their tiger-like ferocity in the battle-line. The record of the regiment, with only one soldier killed and one wounded in hand-to-hand fighting in a score of battlefields in the islands tells the whole story of their puissance.

Main street has not been thronged so mightily since Old Home Week as it was when the 24th went by. Enthusiasm aroused by the martial appearance of the men in olive drab and khaki, with their short Springfield rifles and murderous looking side arms, burst out in constant rounds of applause. Every man in line had a tin metal case attached to his cartridge belt behind containing appliances for first aid to the injured.

On they marched with firm step and soldierly bearing, braving the cold weather, but their hearts were made warm by the enthusiastic welcome they received on all sides, never faltering, never complaining.

The parade went up Main street to Church, to Franklin, where Mayor Adam reviewed the soldiers from the curb in front of the City Hall. Others who watched the regiment pass were City Clerk Balliett, County Treasurer Fix, County Clerk Price, Police Commissioners Zeller and Doherty.

"A fine body of men," said His Honor, as the first battalion of the regiment passed in front of him, Mayor